



LNS

Packet #664
December 14, 1974

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(UMW Bargaining Council Rejects Contract Offer---)

their regular jobs, if necessary, to temporary assign-
ments.

"When they say they can give three days off any-
time, they're saying that if a man is a good union
man they'll never work him," said one council member.

--30--

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Cidne Hart, Laura Levande, Sarah Plant,
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Comrades: Judy Rabinovitz, Ron Alden

Correspondents: Schofield Coryell--Paris

GRAPHICS

Cover: Mexican woodcut by Pablo O'Higgins.
Mexicans miners organized a strike(sorry,
don't know date) in Cananea, Sonora to
demand equal rights with North American
workers. The strike was stopped by Mex-
ican and U.S. troops.
CREDIT: Pablo O'Higgins/Taller de Grafico
Popular/INS

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!!
As some of you might have noticed we need a new
half-tone screen. (Occasionally you might see
wierd-shaped blotches on our photos. Those are
imperfections on our contact screen; we've had
this one over three years.) We really need a new
one, but it would cost about \$40. We can't spend
that \$40 when we have so many pressing bills to be
paid. So everyone, please pay your monthly bills
and any back bill you might have accumulated. So
then we can pay our bills and buy a new screen.
??Thanks

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(See graphics. Also, see #662 for AT&T antitrust info)

SOUTHWESTERN BELL EXECUTIVE KILLS HIMSELF;
SUICIDE NOTE CHARGES

"WATERGATE IS A GNAT COMPARED TO THE BELL SYSTEM"

LIBERATION News Service

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (LNS)--While the parent company, American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) is fending off an antitrust suit from the Justice Department, one of its wholly owned subsidiaries, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, is facing far more serious and immediate problems. The antitrust suit against AT&T may take a decade or more to resolve, but charges of price fixing, illegal wiretapping and payoffs to politicians already has Southwestern Bell on the carpet before several investigating bodies.

A grand jury is currently hearing evidence about illegal wiretapping by the company, the Attorney General for the State of Texas has begun questioning former company employees about the firm's business methods, and several Texas cities are reviewing rates of the firm which serves all of Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas.

Southwestern Bell's problems first became public knowledge on October 17 when the head of the Texas operations of the company killed himself by carbon monoxide poisoning in the garage of his Dallas home. T.O. Gravitt, a 51-year-old executive with a most secure position in Southwestern Bell, left several suicide notes and memos which accused the AT&T subsidiary of serious crimes.

Gravitt's accusations were corroborated by his long time friend and business associate, James H. Ashley, who was fired from Southwestern Bell eight days after Gravitt's death. Chester L. Todd, general manager of the San Antonio district, said that Gravitt's and Ashley's charges of wiretapping and fraud were "hogwash."

Gravitt's son Michael said that after his father's body was found other executives from Southwestern Bell came over to the house and started going through documents in his father's brief case. When he saw one of them taking the suicide note he objected.

"I thought there might be something important there and I took the note away from him and asked him what he was doing going through my father's briefcase," Michael Gravitt said. "He said he was looking for a notebook to write on."

Although the Gravitt family does not know very much about how Mr. Gravitt committed suicide, they do know that he had found out he was under investigation by the phone company shortly before his death. The suicide note said in part:

"...the Bell system has permitted some of our people to question over 150 people and in doing so has caused me irreparable damage to my reputation. Questions like:

- "1. Have you ever bought him gifts at his request?
- "2. Have you fixed him up with women?
- "3. Have you gone to bed with him?
4. "Has he made a pass at you?

"This is unfair for a company to do without

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letting me be present... I think records should be subpoenaed according to attached memo. Also a memo showing a few things others have done.

"There is bound to be much more. Watergate is a gnat compared to the Bell system." The note was signed T.O. Gravitt.

In a statement prepared for a libel and slander suit filed against Southwestern Bell by Ashley and Gravitt the two men charged that they came under scrutiny last summer when they were urging the firm to change its bookkeeping system. Since Texas has no public utilities commission, Southwestern Bell negotiated its rates with each city, and the cities usually accept the company's rates as being accurate.

In recent months, said Ashley, several local managers were embarrassed at rate hearings when independent experts revealed that what Southwestern Bell claimed was a 4.9% return on investments was really a bookkeeping gimmick to disguise investment returns of more than 10%.

In their suit Ashley and Gravitt charged that the Southwestern Bell bookkeeping system needed changing and that the currently used policy is "inadequate, incorrect, duplicitous, deceitful and grossly unfair to the public."

When Southwestern Bell found out that the two men planned to fight the company and educate the public about the firm's practices they began an investigation of Ashley and Gravitt.

In a memo titled "Political" that Gravitt left with his suicide note he referred to a \$1,000 a year raise that Southwestern Bell executives received in 1966. The money remaining after taxes --\$600--was earmarked for the company's political "slush fund", according to Gravitt. Gravitt wrote that this money then went to a company lobbyist "for payoffs."

He also listed other payoffs, including "\$10,000 to the Governor of a Midwestern state", and "cancelling a \$20,000 telephone bill for a Texas politician", according to the New York Times, which apparently saw the documents but refused to publish the names of those involved. In addition, according to the Times, Gravitt listed 14 politicians that he had hauled around in his plane to create good will for the company.

But the most stir has been caused by the charge of illegal wiretapping. Houston police chief C.A. Lynn has admitted that under a previous administration wiretapping was routine. A grand jury is currently investigating charges that the Houston police have used taps to frame suspects.

Southwestern Bell first denied the wiretap charge but later said it could have been done but that its against company policy. Gravitt also charged that a device to trace obscene phone calls was currently being used in San Antonio to listen in on many calls.

Ashley also charged that telephone security forces would tap the phones of officials who would rule on proposed rate hikes and use information obtained to blackmail them to vote correctly. --30--

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more

(See graphics .)

BEATING THE SWORDS INTO SNOWPLOWS; FORD & BREZHNEV NEGOTIATE NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION?

NEW YORK (LNS)--Gerald Ford's late November meeting with Leonid Brezhnev over strategic arms limitations (read: The Bomb in all of its myriad forms) was heralded by both sides as the dawning of a new age of "peaceful coexistence and equal security."

Imagine the scene -- a health spa in the far eastern snow-covered Russian city of Vladivostok; tables loaded with fruit and caviar. Ford, Brezhnev, Kissinger and a corp of diplomats engaged in light, friendly conversation.

Ford remarked, among other things, that the city of Washington was poorly equipped to deal with snow.

Says Brezhnev, "That will be our first deal. We send you Soviet snowplows."

At a good low price," added Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Alas, of course, the leaders must get down to business. And their heady goal? To hammer out an agreement which would limit nuclear arms and provide security and peace for all the world's people.

The negotiations go well thanks to the important ground work done by the Secretary of State.

What does the agreement look like? It 1) limits those arms actually in each other's possession 2) limits each side's capability and most importantly 3) does not require any significant reduction in arms on either side. A job well done. Negotiations were smoothest in this third area.

The new agreement will cover the period from October, 1977 to December 31, 1985 (Nixon's 1972 interim agreement will take us up to 1977).

The Soviet Union has agreed to curtail their advantage in the number of strategic delivery vehicles. (Remember, in arms control discussions, one strategic bomber is equal to one missile launcher. And both are viewed as strategic delivery vehicles.) The U.S. has accepted some restraint in the number of its missiles on which multiple warheads could be put. There are no limits on the actual number of warheads that could be mounted on the agreed total of missiles.

At present the United States has converted more than 750 of its 1,710 missiles to carry MIRVs. That's an acronym for Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles. A MIRV is a multiple-warhead missile -- that's a single missile with many warheads that can be directed at several targets.

The Soviet Union has about 2,300 missiles, but hasn't been able to deploy MIRV's yet. They are busy testing them now, however.

Under long-range planning, the U.S. could "mirv" all its 1,710 missiles. Having converted 750 missiles so far, the U.S. is believed to have more than 6,000 individual warheads, as against the Soviet Union's 2,300.

With unlimited "mirving", however, over a long period of time the Russians could outstrip the Americans in the number of warheads since they have more individual missiles.

Follow that?

In addition, the U.S. has about 500 long range B-52 strategic bombers in service giving it a grand total of about 2,200 delivery vehicles. (This total does not include approximately 75 smaller bombers or the 100 or more B-52s in mothballs.)

The Soviet Union, in addition to their 2,300 missiles, also has about 140 long range bombers, giving them a grand total of about 2,440 delivery vehicles.

So much for the real goods. But take a look at the real delicate touches of the Vladivostok agreement. There's the mix and match feature, for one, which corresponds to the coordinated sweater-skirt/pants theory of fashion.

Under the agreement a combination of missiles, of land-based missiles, submarine missiles, bombers and certain other categories of weapons is allowed. Within the total numbers to be assigned under the agreement, each side has "essentially the freedom to mix" says Kissinger, in whatever way it wants.

In addition, the agreement is most emphatic in not blocking any new weapons programs now in progress. (Heard U.S. defense contractors heave a sigh of relief?) This means, for instance, that work can proceed on the next generation of nuclear submarines (the Trident) and the newest bomber (the B-1).

All both sides have to do is make sure to phase out the older models as they phase in their new weapons so as not to violate the ceiling of the accord.

Some naive souls have criticized the agreement--scheduled to be finalized in the summer of 1975 when Brezhnev comes to the U.S.--because it makes no apparent moves toward total eradication of nuclear warfare.

Diplomats respond that the agreement limits the psychological threat of "capability," and in this crucial area they say, the two sides have taken a giant step forward.

"A cap has been put on the arms race for a period of ten years," says Kissinger. "That cap is substantially below the capabilities of the other side. The element of insecurity inherent in an arms race in which both sides are attempting to anticipate not only the actual programs, but the capabilities of the other side, will be substantially reduced."

Limiting "capability" was easy for the negotiators. But they over-looked the very difficult-to-compute "kill-factor," and this may be the fatal flaw in the agreement. There is no assurance in the agreement that the degree of destructive force for the two sides would be equal.

Each side now has the ability to destroy the other several times over. But the vital question for the future remains: who can do it more times?

Ours is not to reason why, however. As White House press secretary Ron Nessen said about the agreement, "I think the President should be modest. The agreement will speak for itself. The back of this thing has been broken."

--30--

EX-TEAMSTER OFFICIAL SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON
FOR ACCEPTING \$10,000 BRIBE TO DESTROY
UFW ORGANIZING

by Frank Arnold

SAN JOSE, Calif. (LNS)--Theodore J. Gonsalves, former secretary-treasurer of Teamster Local 748 in Modesto, California, was sentenced to one year in federal prison on November 25 for demanding and accepting a \$10,000 bribe to impede organizing efforts of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in the Salinas Valley during 1970.

Gonsalves had pleaded no contest to the six misdemeanor violations on September 24th. That was the first day of the selection of a jury to try Salinas vegetable packers James Robert Martin and Thomas Hitchcock as his co-conspirators.

Martin is a partner and vice-president of Cel-A-Pack, a Salinas cauliflower growing and packing firm and also head of Growers Service, an association of growers, packers and shippers. Hitchcock is a partner and general manager of Let-Us-Pak, a grower and packer of lettuce.

Martin and Hitchcock were accused of conspiring to pay Gonsalves to influence him to thwart the UFW's campaign to organize field workers in the "Salad Bowl of the World" during 1970. Martin was also charged with one count of agreeing to pay a bribe and four counts of paying a bribe.

In sentencing Gonsalves, Judge Robert F. Peckham declared that he was "convinced that you are guilty of the offenses. You used threats and coercion and conducted yourself in a manner that reflected badly on the whole trade union movement."

During the trial Fred Dutton, now manager of a store in Turlock, California, told the jury he had acted as the "bagman" for Gonsalves in collecting the bribe money.

According to Dutton's testimony, he, Gonsalves and about 70 officers and members of Teamsters Local 748 drove to the Growers Service Center in Salinas on the morning of September 5, 1970, where a conference with Martin was arranged. Later that same day Gonsalves, Dutton and another aide went with Martin to the offices of Cel-A-Pak where Martin handed Dutton a check for \$10,000.

Dutton said Martin called him that night and asked him to return the check because his attorney had advised him to use cash in his dealings with Gonsalves. Gonsalves agreed to accept cash in lieu of the check.

Dutton testified further that when William Grami, then director of organization for the Western Conference of Teamsters, questioned Gonsalves as to why he was in Salinas, he shouted "The growers want us here. They have given us money to stay here." Then Gonsalves ordered Dutton to show Grami the \$10,000 check.

Although Grami testified during the trial that Gonsalves did not have Teamster sanction for his Salinas actions, a question never answered during the trial was why, if Grami and other teamster officials knew about the bribe from the beginning, they waited until July 1972, when a government investiga-

tion was probably already underway, to institute disciplinary proceedings against Gonsalves. These proceedings resulted in little more than a slap on the wrist.

During the trial Frank Cunha, a burly kung-fu expert, testified that Gonsalves put up more than \$1500 to pay 300 goons whom he recruited to pressure the San Francisco Produce Market to boycott lettuce picked by the UFW.

Cunha, who said he was a member of Teamster Local 860 in San Francisco, noted that the pickets demonstrated at the Produce Market without success. UFW-picked lettuce from the Salinas Valley was unloaded at the market immediately after the demonstration.

Cunha said Dutton gave the \$1500 to San Francisco teamster Dave Alderman who passed it along to him. Cunha added that he went to Salinas after the demonstration to work for Gonsalves for \$50 a day plus expenses. He remained in the area for about three weeks.

Another witness, Frank M. Carolla, former Teamster Local 748 business agent, testified that Gonsalves also ordered him to come to Salinas in August, 1970. Carolla said Gonsalves had asked him to bring with him "fellows who could handle themselves, who would remain loyal and who had guts."

Carolla said he led a number of caravans of men to farms where UFW organizers and pickets were urging workers to leave the fields and join them. These teamster caravans would often drive in and out of the UFW picket lines, breaking up the formation and exposing the pickets to the danger of being struck by one of the cars.

Gonsalves, as it appears, will now do a few months in jail for his part in this conspiracy. Not so for the growers involved, however. The seven-man, five-woman jury acquitted Martin of the four counts of paying a bribe and Hitchcock of the conspiracy charge on October 24 after deliberating 18 hours over a two-day period.

However, the panel also announced that it was hopelessly deadlocked on the one count of conspiracy and one count of agreeing to pay a bribe against Martin.

A hearing on a motion by Martin's attorney asking dismissal of the two remaining charges is set for late December before Judge Peckham in San Francisco.

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MOVIES AVAILABLE FROM COMMUNITY FILMS

Community Films is an anti-profit film resource center in Somerville, Mass., with a growing list of films available to rent. Subjects range from films about Latin America, Vietnam, labor struggles and films by and for women.

For information on Community Films or for their catalogue, write to them at 22 Cleveland St., Somerville, Mass. 02143.

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(See graphics.)

ABORTION LEGALIZED IN FRANCE-- WITH LIMITATIONS

PARIS (LNS) -- In a limited victory for French women, the French National Assembly voted to legalize abortion by a vote of 284 to 189 on November 28. Previously it was a criminal offense to have an abortion as well as to counsel, arrange or perform one, and punishable by fines or imprisonment.

A coalition of left parliamentary forces overrode the anti-abortion position of two-thirds of President Giscard d'Estaing's majority party. In addition, the strong support of Simone Veil-- Minister of Health, militant member of the Movement for Freedom of Abortion and Contraception (MLAC) and former midwife who was an early advocate of the suction method for abortions--significantly helped the passage of the law. While recognizing it as a step forward, she also recognizes its limitations.

"The sole purpose of the new law," Veil stated, "was to allow women who are now having abortions under terrible conditions to have them under slightly better conditions."

The law stipulates that abortions must be performed in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy, and only in state-approved public or private hospitals. The cost of abortions will not be covered by the national health plan, although the government will set standard fees.

Publicity or information about abortion methods and services is still illegal except when printed in professional medical and pharmaceutical journals. And minors still cannot have abortions legally without parental consent.

The new law also requires that in any given institution, abortions can make up a maximum of only one-quarter of all the operations performed yearly. Although ostensibly to prevent business-people from profiteering from lucrative abortion "factories," this limitation will make it harder for women to find places to get abortions.

"After all," said one militant MLAC member, who viewed the new law as nothing more than a gesture to appease the women's movement, "the fact that abortion is not covered by social security means that only middle-class women will be able to afford to have abortions under decent conditions. So nothing has changed." She sees the law to be "almost inoperative."

"And the fact that 'propaganda' concerning abortion is still prohibited and punishable by law means that most people will still remain in ignorance about the possibilities of abortion."

MLAC's long range goal is for "abortion to disappear," with free and easily available and effective contraceptive methods. Toward that goal, a law was passed in November legalizing information and propaganda about contraceptives. The use of contraceptives had been legalized in 1967, but distributing information about them had still been outlawed until this fall.

MLAC, with 300 committees throughout France, will continue its fight for free abortions and contraceptives readily available for all women.

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(Thanks to People's Translation in London and Schofield Coryell in Paris for some of the above information.)

PRELIMINARY OAS REPORT ACCUSES CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OF "WIDESPREAD TORTURE"

NEW YORK (LNS) -- The latest critic of the Chilean junta is none other than the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR), an arm of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The IACHR submitted to the OAS Council in early December, a report detailing "extremely serious violations of fundamental human rights" in ten areas of concern, including rights to "life, personal safety, liberty, habeus corpus, due process, expression and information, assembly, association, opinion, equality before the law, and political participation."

The most pressing concern to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights was the status of political prisoners and the "apparent widespread use of physical and mental torture." The report noted that while the commission was able to interview political prisoners in some prisons who had obviously been victims of torture, there were five particular prisons they were concerned about, which they were not permitted to visit.

The most notorious of these "torture centers," the IACHR said, was the Chilean naval vessel, Esmerald. The Chilean government refused the Inter-American Commission's request to visit this and other suspected torture centers, citing the right "to guard the security of certain places intimately related to the national defense."

The 175-page IACHR report also states, "None of the mass communication media are free to disseminate thought or inform the public" and that "Marxism is generically considered as a felony."

The Chilean government countered the report with a statement claiming that it doesn't deny anybody the right to believe in Marxist ideas, it just outlaws the dissemination of such ideas.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report now goes to the OAS Council. The Council will also review a report prepared by the Chilean junta.

The general assembly of the OAS is expected to take up the matter next April and may, if it chooses, vote to censure the Chilean junta or possibly take stronger action.

Until official OAS action however, the IACHR report will not be made public.

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Please pay your December bills if you haven't already.

(See graphics in the last packet, #663, and in this packet).

SUGAR NEAR \$4 FOR FIVE POUNDS;
CORPORATIONS PROFIT WHILE
CONSUMERS LEFT HOLDING THE BAG

NEW YORK (LNS)--A quick run to the supermarket these days usually turns up dozens of complaints about the soaring price of food, and one of the greatest complaints heard across the country is about sugar prices.

Consumers now have to pay four times what they did last January for sugar and all the products made from sugar. With each person in the United States consuming an average of over 100 pounds of sugar a year, this is serious business.

Meanwhile, sugar refining companies have reported windfall profits -- one with gains of 2,000% over last year -- causing consumers to wonder exactly what's up.

"It's just crazy," said one angry shopper. "Sugar seems to be in everything my kids eat -- in cereals, cookies, candy. Even fruit juices are full of it. Christmas'll be a disaster this year. The only thing that'll drop is the dental bills."

Candy bars are shaved down and sold at higher prices; small bakers are going out of business; and even sugarless soft drink producers have taken the opportunity to raise their prices as well. Health care groups are publicizing the effects of sugar on the body, as the price climbs higher and higher.

"When it first went up to \$1.10 [for five pounds] I thought I'd wait til the price came back down. Then it went up to \$1.49, then \$1.69...and I finally broke down and bought some for \$2.39. Now that it's reached \$3.69, I feel like I got a bargain. But how can you be happy with \$2.39 for 5 lousy pounds of sugar?"

Who's to Blame?

Faced with irate consumers and the threat of national sugar boycotts, the sugar industry is doing its best to excuse itself for the skyrocketing prices. Recent full-page ads run by Amstar Corporation, the nation's giant sugar refining company, have pinned the blame completely on "natural" phenomena. They claim that crop failures in recent years have tightened sugar supplies, while world-wide demand for sugar has risen.

What they forget to mention, however, is how producers have profiteered through artificial shortages created by federal policies, and speculation in the sugar market.

The sugar industry's argument that this year's sugar prices result completely from dwindling supply and increasing demand, just doesn't hold water, especially since this trend has gone on for the past four years. Besides, government policy-makers and the industry have made no attempt to reverse the trend by increasing plantings, for instance. In fact, just the opposite has happened. Acreage in the U.S. has deliberately been cut back.

Of the 11.7 million tons the United States consumes each year, 60% is grown domestically (some cane sugar and all of the beet sugar consumed) and

the other 40% is imported as raw sugar and re-fined in the United States. This year, the Agriculture Department paid domestic growers \$90 million in subsidies, according to the Boston Globe, for not growing sugar crops. The money came from an excise tax paid by refiners, but eventually passed on to the consumer.

The effect of this subsidy was to cut further into an already declining supply. This year's beet sugar crop, all of which the U.S. grows domestically, was down 9% from last year's already low output. And sugar cane production dropped 2%. In line with the "free market's" laws of supply and demand, the industry then took advantage of the short supply by raising prices, which have now quadrupled for consumers since the beginning of 1974.

The sugar industry is "causing shortages to provide capital for thier own companies," concludes Hank Frundy, a member of the Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE).

Industry Profits

Sugar companies have indeed sweetened their profits this year. The Michigan Sugar Company, the state's largest beet sugar producer, posted unprecedented profits this year of 2,000% above last year's. Great Western Sugar, the largest beet sugar processor, saw its "earnings" climb 1,200% for the 1974 July to September period, compared with last year.

Over the same period of time, Amstar Corporation, which controls 25% of all sugar refining in the U.S., posted profits of 250%. And if not for a change in its accounting methods, (a common corporate technique for hiding unsightly profits) it would have shown a yearly profit increase of 420%.

Amstar's Domino division produces 1/6 of all beet sugar sold in the U.S. "As the nation's largest sugar refiner," reports a recent issue of Business Week, "New York-based Amstar Corporation has been pacing the soaring price trend."

Amstar's 1974 fiscal report explains that "our cane division benefitted dramatically from the changed supply/demand relationship [in 1974] -- a record year in all respects." Domino's sales were up 27% in the first half of 1974. Climbing raw sugar costs were simply passed on to the consumer on top of a refiner's markup of about 20%.

But beet sugar operations have accounted for the bulk of Amstar's profits. Its Spreckels (beet sugar) division has managed to reap all-time high profits, while selling less sugar than at any time in the last four years.

The sugar industry ties to justify its gargantuan gains by claiming, in the word of Amstar's president, Robert Quittmeyer, that "sugar has always been priced too low."

"Look at all those years when they were only marginally profitable," he says. "Why shouldn't they make up for it -- even in one year, if they can?"

"The [sugar] industry wants its share of the new agricultural pie that some big companies have been benefitting from," notes URPE member Hank Frundt.

Amstar's Quittmeyer asks, "Why shouldn't farmers make a decent return?" But the term "farmers" is misleading. In the sugar industry, which is vertically integrated, farmers and refiners are often one and the same outfit.

Refining companies, for instance, either own the sugar land and growing operations directly, or they contract with growers, often maintaining control through pricing and sales, says Mike Locker of the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA).

Since the 1920's, U.S. corporations have maintained influence in sugar-producing countries through direct ownership of lands and mills. As recently as 1967, for instance, the giant conglomerate Gulf & Western Industries, Inc. acquired about 300,000 acres of the best plantation land in the Dominican Republic, along with a mill, a private railroad and private shipping facilities.

Cane-cutters in the Dominican Republic get 75¢ a day for 12 hours of back-breaking work. "The set-up is run virtually like a feudal estate," explains Locker, with the company controlling every aspect of life.

But direct land holdings by the United States are now the exception to the rule. Nationalist movements, like one in Peru in 1969, have forced U.S. sugar concerns, like the W.R. Grace Company, to leave.

To get around this, notes, Locker, the U.S. now assumes less obvious forms of control in foreign countries, including contracting with foreign growers who are obligated to sell back to the United States in order to repay loans.

The Sugar Quota

Within the United States, growers in Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Hawaii have been guaranteed a specific share of the market for 40 years through the 1934 Sugar Act. This Act artificially restricts the U.S. supply of sugar by setting a quota limiting the amount the U.S. can import from other countries. Thirty-one different sugar-exporting countries are allowed to sell a certain percentage of this quota to the U.S., until recently, at prices higher than the world market price.

The sugar quota is regulated by a House of Representatives subcommittee and has long been used as a tool in foreign policy. With the advent of the Cuban revolution in 1959, for example, the U.S. cut the amount of sugar imported from Cuba and later placed a total embargo on it. Now, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Brazil are the top four exporters of sugar to the United States. Even South Africa is on the list.

In the past, the Sugar Act has kept the price of raw sugar which the U.S. pays three cents higher than the world market price, inducing sugar-exporting countries to sell to the U.S. and fill the quota allotted them. But this year, traditional world trade agreements have been disrupted, as the world market price shot above the price the U.S. could offer under settled agreements.

The bulk of the world's sugar trade has been handled through such negotiated trade agreements. Only 12% of the global sugar trade is actually sold on the "open market," subject to price fluctuations

and speculation. The price of this 12% has soared in 1974, leading to changes in export patterns.

Sugar-producing countries that normally supplied the U.S. with a certain amount at a set price quickly shifted their sales to the Middle East, where nations were able to offer higher prices than the U.S. could under its quota agreements.

It started in late 1973, when rumors spurred on by speculators spread throughout the market, that oil-rich nations would be in a position to buy up all the sugar, leaving countries like the U.S. with a shortage. While Middle Eastern countries did buy up a year's supply of sugar within three month's time, they bought only what they needed for consumption -- two million tons, according to one specialist at a multi-national sugar firm.

In the United States, meanwhile, investors capitalized on the climate of fear they had helped create, making raw sugar a big commodity for speculation on the international or "futures" market. Speculators signed "futures contracts," agreeing to buy raw sugar with the intent of selling it at a later date, when the contract expired.

They bought the sugar -- really a piece of paper -- in the beginning of this year, when raw sugar prices were only about 12¢ a pound. By November, when the price had climbed to 62¢ a pound, speculators sold the sugar, making a killing.

Prices are eventually expected to return to year-ago levels, but no one knows just when. At that time, speculators will again have an opportunity to buy up sugar "futures contracts" at low prices, perhaps starting the cycle once again.

The 40-year-old Sugar Act is due to expire on December 31, leaving domestic sugar producers in fear of unrestricted imports.

But Ford has already taken stop-gap measures, setting a new quota of seven million tons for 1975, which sugar-producing countries can fill on a first-come-first-serve basis. When the world market price once again drops below the price offered by the United States, these countries will again be induced to fill the U.S. quota.

The measure will continue to protect U.S. sugar producers, who have helped create our present "shortage."

-30-

(Thanks to many people in URPE, Mike Locker, and Community Press Features).

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BUTZ HITS OUT AT 'SMALL FARM' NOSTALGIA

"Our agricultural policy has been rooted in the nostalgia of the past.

Nostalgically, we still look at it as a way of life, but agriculture is now big business."

--Earl Butz in a recent interview with the Washington Post.

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Got any hot news? Or any news? Write or call Liberation News Service, 160 Claremont Ave., New York, N.Y. 10027. Phone (212) 749-2200. Thanks.

[See graphics to go with the following]

"OUR PROMISED LAND":
NEW BOOK EXPLORES SOUTHERN LAND AND RESOURCES
AND WHO CONTROLS THEM

"If you live in Canton, North Carolina, or West Point, Virginia, or Savannah, Georgia, you know what wealth from the South's land means for your community's environment and economy. You can see and smell the results of having a paper mill in your backyard.

"If you're from Claiborne County, Tennessee, or Muhlenberg, Kentucky, maybe you can remember those forested hillsides that are now covered with stripminers' rubble. And those of you who grew up in the Delta have no doubt pondered the ambiguities of living close to the land.

"Wherever you're from in this region, it probably wouldn't take you long to trace your town's life back to the special assets of its earth. In the South, identity is still bound up with the land."

--excerpt from "Our Promised Land," the fall 1974 double issue of "Southern Exposure"--a quarterly journal about the South.

NEW YORK (LNS)--"Speed now the day when the plains and the hills and all the wealth thereof shall be the people's own, and free men shall not live as tenants of men on the earth."

Written in 1937 as part of the Southern Tenant Farmer's Union movement, this quote, featured on the cover of the fall issue of "Southern Exposure," is still pertinent today. This special 225-page issue, entitled "Our Promised Land," is devoted to "the foundation of southern culture--the land itself."

"Soil, timber and minerals have shaped the South in peculiar ways and continue to stand in a precarious limbo between potential and exploitation. Not only has profit oriented development devoured the South's natural resources, it has also produced our own home-grown, land-hungry barons.

"The by-products of this process are sharecroppers and entrepreneurs, clearcut forests and ravaged mountains, the cotton plantation and agribusiness. The gas shortage and oil profits, our electric bills and strip mined coal, skyrocketing food prices--all accent the critical position of land-based enterprises in our contemporary society."

This excerpt is from the introduction to "Our Promised Land," and throughout the issue these themes are explored in their varying aspects. The lead article, "South Coast Conspiracy," describes how soybeans and oil have transformed an entire region of the South and placed it largely under the control of giant "vertically integrated" corporations.

The next article--an excerpt from Theodore Rosengarten's new book All God's Dangers--about a black sharecropper, Nate Shaw, delves into history to show the central role the black farmer has played in the evolution of the southern economy.

Other articles cover a variety of land-related

problems--the subculture of tenant farmers in Arkansas, the special plight of black farmers, the growth of agribusiness and alternatives which have been developing to fight it.

"I don't believe farmers have as much ulcers as business people cause their life isn't quite as fast. But I'll say there will be more as time goes on. Cause farming is changing more. It's more a business now. . . it's not the labor. . . it's the management end of it."

This quote from a farmer introduces an article on "New Life for the Small Farmer," about a training center in North Carolina for cooperative farm managers and small farmers.

Additional articles discuss other cooperatives emerging in the South--evaluating them critically, recognizing certain failures, yet optimistic about the possibilities they offer for small farmers challenging the invading conglomerates.

The abuse of southern land by outside developers is another subject dealt with in several of the essays. One article talks about urbanization, another--"Selling the Mountains"--describes how developers are destroying communities to promote tourism. And another article shows how the national forest itself is one of the major "absentee owners" of southern land--depriving people of both the use of these resources and a large source of tax revenue.

In an article on the national forests in Appalachia, Si Kahn writes:

"It is grossly unfair that the financial burden of providing recreation for the eastern U.S. should fall so heavily on some of the poorest citizens in the country--yet this is exactly what is happening. It is ridiculous to spend millions for campsites in communities which lack funds for schools, hospitals, health care, transportation, water systems, sewage disposal, housing--yet this is what is happening.

"The National Forest lands in Appalachia could become a real resource to mountain people, providing jobs, land for public facilities, and the revenue for badly needed service programs. Even more these lands, which have been taken from Appalachian people, could some day be returned to them to live and work on: lands which their grandparents settled and cleared, and which their children are being forced to leave."

Interspersed among this selection of articles are quotes, maps, photographs and drawings of southern land and southern people at work. An article on the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina traces the history of how their land and self sufficiency was taken from them and is followed by several poems.

There is also a special research section on "Food, Fuel, and Fiber." Prepared by the Institute for Southern Studies, it is a thorough investigation of these three basic segments of the economy--agriculture, minerals, and timber--and the corporations which control them.

Of particular interest is the discussion of the

"interlocking directorates" which exist among the companies in each industry, and "interlock charts" are presented which clearly show the multiple links. What emerges from this investigation is a movement towards vertical integration within particular industries.

"... A company director can begin to have decision-making power over all the various stages of the production process--extracting a natural resource, refining, transporting, marketing and finally distributing it to the consuming public. . . .

"The interlock charts also illustrate the increasing concentration of land-use and resource development decision-making in a few hands. In the energy industry, the directors of one company can be interlocked with the production of oil, natural gas, coal, electricity, and nuclear fuels, all of which allegedly compete with one another for the consumer's dollar. . . ."

There are also significant interlocks with financial institutions as well. For example, representatives from the boards of Exxon, Atlantic Richfield, Cities Services, and Continental Oil all sit on the board of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company--and Morgan owns 1.6 per cent of Exxon's stock, 0.5 per cent of Atlantic Richfield and 2.2 per cent of Continental Oil's.

"The board of Morgan also has five directors from the top coal companies, four from leading agribusiness firms, and three from large timber producers," explains the Institute for Southern Studies.

"As these men sit together, it is easy to understand how a combination of personal and financial interlocks allows one corporate body--in this case a giant New York bank--to carry out land-use planning on a scale few city planners would even imagine."

Following the analysis of agribusiness, oil and timber industries, the report presents development and land use profiles--accompanied by many more charts and graphs.

"What emerges from these research reports, state profiles, and charts," write the editors of Southern Exposure, "is a picture of a region rich in highly-treasured resources, yet lacking in strategies to keep that wealth in local areas, for the benefit of the many rather than the few.

"With 52 per cent of the country's mineral production, 40 per cent of the timber, and 27 per cent of its food products, it's time we became conscious of our resources and began making demands on those who desire them."

* * * *

"Our Promised Land" is available for \$3.50 from Southern Exposure, P.O. Box 230, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514. Yearly subscriptions to Southern Exposure cost \$8.00.

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Please, please folks. . . (you know what we're asking for). . .

UMW BARGAINING COUNCIL REJECTS CONTRACT OFFER;
4,500 MINE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS REMAIN OFF THE JOB

WASHINGTON D.C. (LSN)--The 38-member bargaining council of the United Mine Workers (UMW) rejected on December 11 a tentative contract offered to the 4,500 mine construction workers by the Association of Bituminous Contractors (ABC). The rejection pushed past the one month mark the strike by workers who build mine shafts and coal washing plants.

The UMW's 120,000 members ratified their contract by a 56 to 44 percent vote on December 5. The construction workers, however, while members of the UMW, negotiate a contract with ABC, a group of construction companies, while the general UMW contract is negotiated with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

Although most of the striking miners returned to work on December 9, the striking construction workers set up picket lines in many areas and more than 35,000 miners stayed home December 9 and 10 refusing to cross the lines. However, after the bargaining council sent the contract back to be re-negotiated, the UMW national office asked the construction workers to stop picketing so that other miners would go back to work.

While most of the strikers agreed to cease picketing while a new contract was being hashed out, strikers in UMW District 2 are still picketing. The district covers 10,000 miners in 17 Western Pennsylvania counties and picket lines there, swelled by independent truckers sympathetic to the strike, have been supported by an estimated 7,500 miners.

For a contract to be passed on to the rank and file for ratification the bargaining council must first approve it. The management offer was rejected by a resounding 30 to 5 vote, however, leading one union official to say, "In view of the council's overwhelming opposition I don't know what else they [management] can do" except to re-negotiate the contract.

While most of the contract rejected by the construction workers is similar to the one accepted by the miners, there are several clauses which deal specifically with issues affecting construction workers. For instance, many members of the bargaining council attacked the contract because it lacked travel pay for the construction workers who must often travel from town to town or state to state to reach job sites. There was also strong objection to a clause saying new employees must work 30 days before they are considered permanent employees.

Seniority is also a crucial issue. Under the proposed contract, if construction work is delayed by bad weather or lack of materials, management can lay-off workers for up to 3 days, beginning with the newest worker on a particular job, like a carpenter or a bricklayer. The council felt that the company would automatically layoff union activists and the highest paid workers if not forced to follow a strict seniority system. They say that if layoffs are necessary they should start with the newest employee at the job site, transferring senior workers from

(See graphics.)

RANK AND FILE CANNERY WORKERS ORGANIZE
IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:
"EVENTUALLY THESE LOCALS WILL BE CONTROLLED
BY THE WORKERS"

by Bob Barber

HAYWARD, California (LNS)--A loose network of rank and file cannery workers' committees in Northern California is challenging the abuse of workers' rights by giant food processing corporations and entrenched Teamsters Union bureaucracies.

Organizing is being conducted around three major issues: racism and sexism by the companies and the union in hiring, promotion, and pay; health and safety conditions in the canneries; and the exclusion by union officials of worker participation in the 12 Teamster locals which hold contracts with the industry bargaining association.

The region encompasses 80 canneries which employ more than 70,000 workers at peak season in the summer. The value of the canned fruit and vegetables these workers produce runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Cannery workers share many of the problems faced by the farm workers who grow and harvest the crops for the canneries. Most of the work is seasonal, and most of the workers are members of national minority groups (especially Mexican but also Black, Asian, and Arab), and a majority are women.

In addition, the employers are increasingly large and powerful food conglomerates; for example, Del Monte, which is a world wide billion dollar enterprise and has 13 canneries in Northern California.

And the canneries have as their ally the Teamsters Union, which at the companies' invitation signed sweetheart contracts in the 1930's and 40's. These moves destroyed several progressive cannery workers unions, and imposed a regimen on the canneries that until recently has brooked no opposition.

Now, however, the rank and file has again begun to organize itself. In some areas, such as Sacramento and San Jose, cannery worker committees have been at work for several years now. Originally formed to fight race and sex discrimination in the canneries by using civil rights legislation, they have now moved to more direct forms of organizing.

In other areas, such as Stockton, Salinas, and Hayward, new groups are forming, again with the issue of discrimination playing a key role in bringing them together.

"They have three floors at Hunts," said Elizabeth Triviso who has worked at the Hunts-Wesson tomato products plant in Hayward for 10 years, "the top floor, where they do the cooking, the middle floor where they peel the tomatoes and bottle the ketchup, and the bottom floor, the sanitation department.

"The cook room on the third floor is almost all white, and that's where the best paying jobs are. The second floor is almost all women, a mixture of whites and Mexicans and others. The bottom floor is all Mexicans, and every time a Mexican

comes in for a job, they put him there, in the sanitation department."

Triviso, along with ten other women and two men from the two Hunt-Wesson plants in Hayward, have joined together in filing a suit with the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission charging that women and minorities are systematically kept in low-paying, unskilled jobs by the company and Teamsters Local 768.

Some of the women in the group, including her mother, have worked at Hunts for 15, 20, and even 30 years and have never been promoted.

"The people who have been working here are the ones who should be getting the advancement," she says, "but they never really have. We end up training people they bring in from the outside who then bump us and get the better jobs. And the union is aware of this and they go along with it."

Racism and sexism in the canneries has been amply documented by federal, state, and local civil rights agencies, especially in Sacramento where the first cannery workers committee in the current period prodded them into investigating the situation in 1971 and 1972.

"Things have improved somewhat in these areas of discrimination," one of the Sacramento organizers said recently, "and some of the worst racism has been eliminated. The suits are still a good way to involve people, but I think we learned some lessons from those agencies. They are basically people from big business on loan to the government to regulate the workers. It's more effective to fight racism within the plant, to organize the workers to put direct pressure on the company and the union."

One issue that is of great concern to cannery workers is safety in the plant. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 1972, work-related injuries and illnesses occurred in the canning industry at almost twice the average rate for all other industries.

The Hunt-Wesson plants in Hayward, the Del Monte plant in Oakland, and most other canneries have no windows. Workers report they are often forced to work standing in a mixture of water, oil, and broken glass. Loss of hearing from the noise is a common problem, and loss of fingers and even arms in unguarded machinery is also frequent.

And canning industry groups have opposed nearly all the federal regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which apply to canneries.

And in August the National Canning Association stated in its newsletter that proposed requirements for a warning signal to be triggered when a conveyor belt is activated are objectionable because "there is no hazard in the conveyor belt system nor in the articles being conveyed."

A group of activists called the Bay Area Committee for Occupational Safety and Health has translated into Spanish the OSHA regulations relating to cannery workers. Rudy Avila, a worker at the Libby-McNeill-Libby plant in Sacramento, recently described how he and his fellow workers used these "shop sheets."

"We took the pamphlets and put the information in our newsletter to educate people about their rights under OSHA. At first the company spread the word that they would close the plant because we had made too many demands and it would cost them too much money. But we knew that wasn't true because we could see they were investing in the plant, buying new machines. So we got new windows put in, and guardrails on the machines, and metal supports for the roof to replace the old rotten ones that the fork lift trucks would knock over . . ."

Avila is a member of Local 857 in Sacramento, and this past summer the cannery workers committee in that local also organized to reinstitute union meetings during the peak harvest season, which had been eliminated in the past. They also forced the union to place shop stewards in every department for every shift at the Libby's plant.

The committee in local 857 also publishes a newsletter for the rank and file. A recent issue, for example, analyzed where the dues money collected by the Teamsters was going, explained a section of the contract dealing with overtime pay, and carried a mathematics lesson for workers seeking to qualify as higher-paid lab technicians in the cannery.

The effort to increase participation in union affairs is the biggest challenge facing the committees. Over the years since the Teamsters took over in the canneries, most workers have become cynical or apathetic about union meetings, and union officials have discouraged membership participation. Union meetings are rarely translated into Spanish or other languages spoken by the workers, and the contract and union by-laws are generally unavailable to the members in any language.

Pete Naranjo, a shop steward at the National Can Company Foods Division cannery in San Jose, points out that it is ultimately up to the workers themselves to get a good contract. "I get a chance to talk to the people who work in my plant, and so I can give them information about the contract. With this, naturally they will stand up more for their rights and the contract will be better enforced. But let's say at a plant where nobody is saying anything about the contract, the company will get away with whatever it wants to."

Naranjo and other members of the cannery workers committee in San Jose local 679 are in the midst of an effort to change the election of the local's officers from mid-winter, when, he estimates, 80% of the members are not working, to July and August, during the peak season.

The Teamster constitution requires these elections to be held in December and allows only the General President to make exceptions. Last month, Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons rejected a petition by several hundred Campbells' Soup Company workers in Local 228 in Sacramento to make such a change, and thus far officials of Local 679 have stymied the San Jose committee's efforts. But Naranjo says they will keep trying.

"They tell you that you're not supposed to ask questions, you're not supposed to think," says Eliz-

abeth Triviso. "You're just supposed to stand there and do the work. But people are all aware of the problems, they're aware of their working conditions. The people that get involved in fighting them are the ones who have had something happen to them personally.

"Once something happens to you in the plant and the union doesn't even help, you get stronger, and you realize that other people are going through the same thing, and you get together with them, and then the awareness spreads and other people come around and join in too."

"There will be changes," added Pete Naranjo, "there's no getting around it. The handwriting is on the wall, and the officials of the local know this. Eventually these locals will be controlled by the people who work in the canneries."

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES WEATHER MODIFICATION FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA--MORE WATER FOR ENERGY PROJECTS, LESS FOR INDIANS

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (LNS)--The U.S. Department of the Interior announced at the Western Governors conference in Albuquerque this summer, that the federal government is seriously considering plans to conduct large-scale weather modification programs in the Rocky Mountain area.

The scheme will increase average snowfall in the region by 30 percent, the Interior Department says, and will increase the average yearly flow of the Colorado River by 0.9 to 1.3 Million acre feet.

Several Native American Indian organizations have expressed strong opposition to the plan. Indian lands, which lie to the east of the areas where the clouds are to be seeded, already lack rainfall and will receive even less if the plan is implemented.

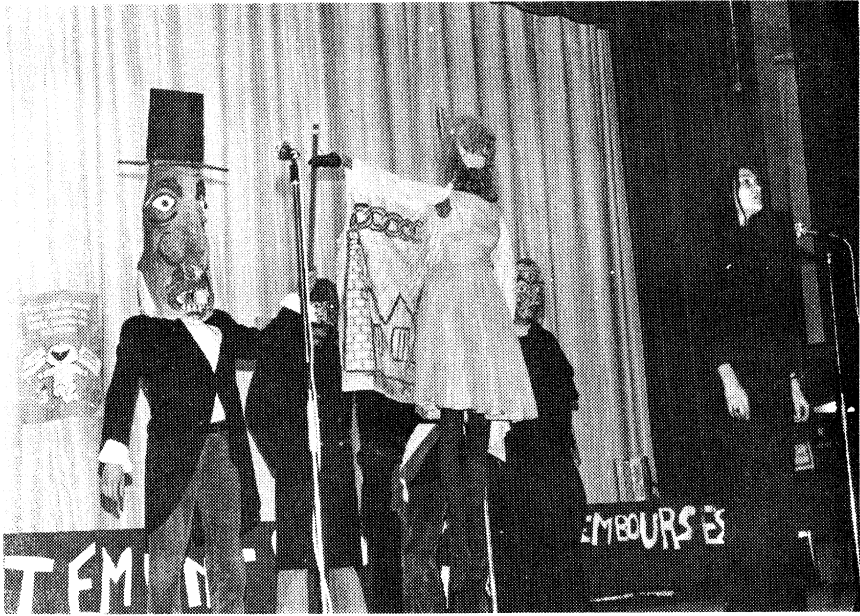
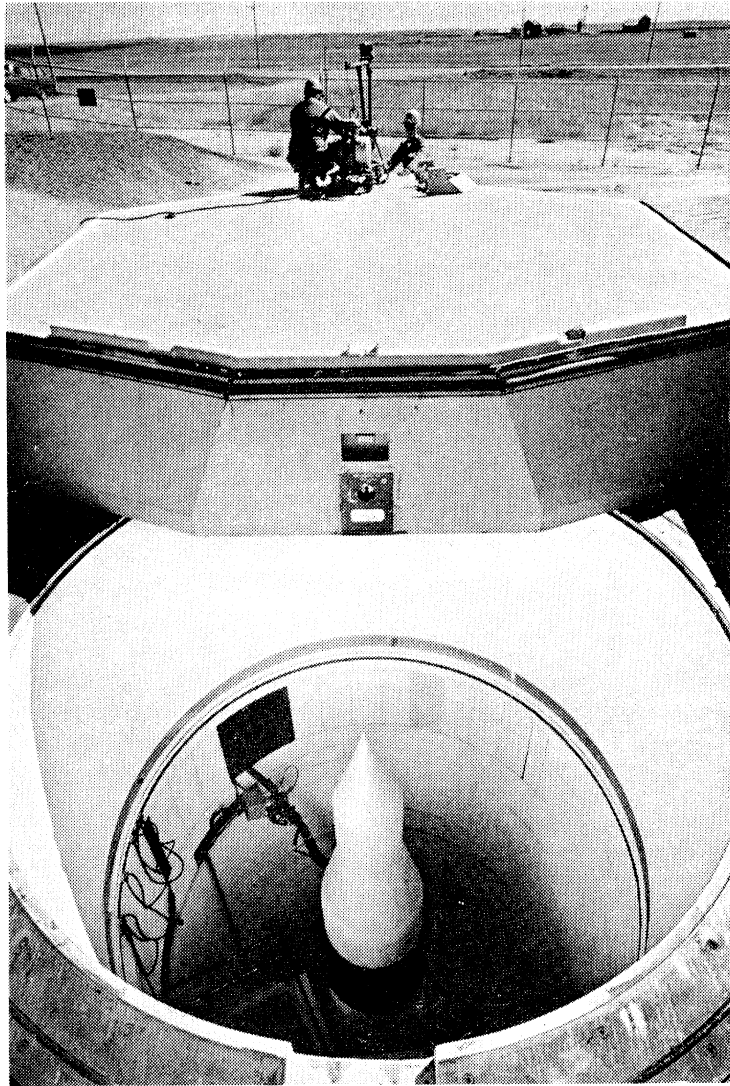
The increased water flow for the Rocky Mountain region will be necessary, the Interior Department told the Conference, to provide water needed for the development of coal-gassification plants in the area. The whole concept of coal gassification (the converting of coal or oil shale into oil) has been under attack by environmentalists who say the scheme will be ecologically devastating.

The Interior Department report, in fact admits that "significant adverse environmental effects," would result from the weather modification project, including snow avalanches, changes in vegetation and drastic changes in wildlife. The report claims however, that the country's need for "cheap energy" will be so great in ten years, that environmental factors might have to be discounted.

Jack Horton, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for land and water, said the department will reach a decision in early 1975 to ask Congress for funding for the program. Horton added that a similar weather modification program on a smaller scale is already in effect in the Colorado's San Juan River Basin.

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PLEASE SEND US SOME COPIES OF YOUR PAPERS. THANKS



TOP RIGHT: A Minuteman missile in Wyoming housed in a silo. It can deliver a nuclear warhead 6,300 miles.

MAY BE RUN WITH THE STORY ON NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATIONS ON PAGE 2 OF THIS PACKET (#664).

TOP LEFT: Young draftees used as strike-breakers during the November garbage collectors strike in Paris. When they left, after hardly skimming the top of a few piles, the street was no cleaner than before.

MAY BE RUN WITH THE STORY ON PAGE 6 OF PACKET #660.

CREDIT: Rosette Coryell/LNS

MIDDLE LEFT: A play by a militant theatre group at a meeting of the MLAC (Movement for the Freedom of Abortion and Contraception) in Paris. The story traces women's struggles against men-run institutions (the church, Parliament, the Police, etc.) which strive to keep women in bondage.

MAY BE RUN WITH THE STORY ON THE LEGALIZATION OF ABORTION IN FRANCE ON PAGE 4 OF THIS PACKET (#664).

CREDIT: Rosette Coryell/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: MAY BE RUN WITH THE STORY ON SUGAR, PAGE 5 OF THIS PACKET (#664).

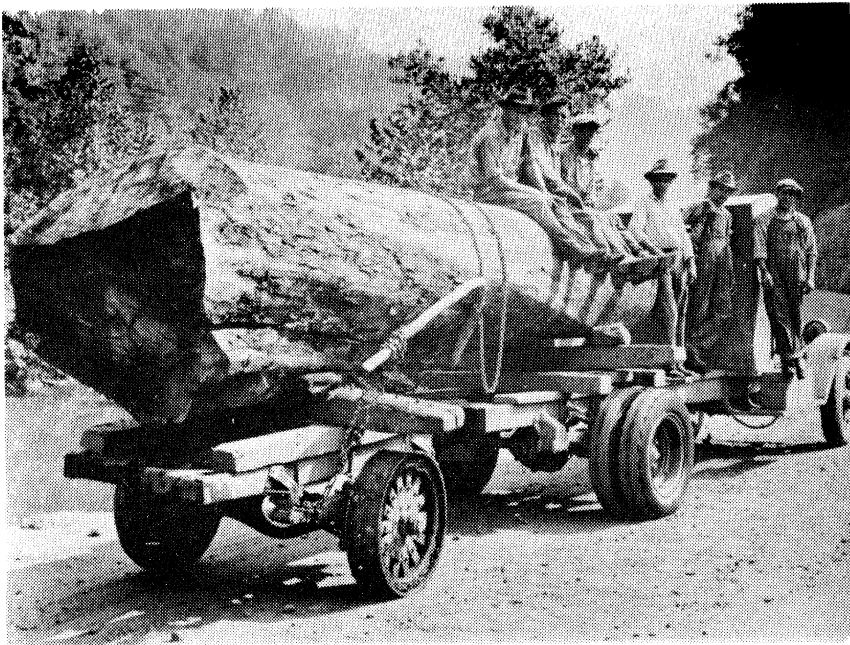
CREDIT: Andrews/THE DAILY WORLD/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Women workers in a San Jose cannery.

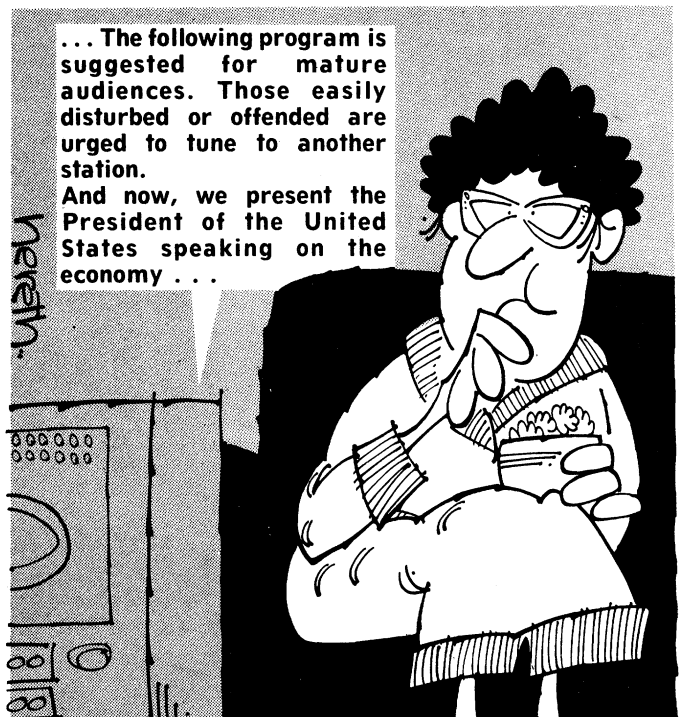
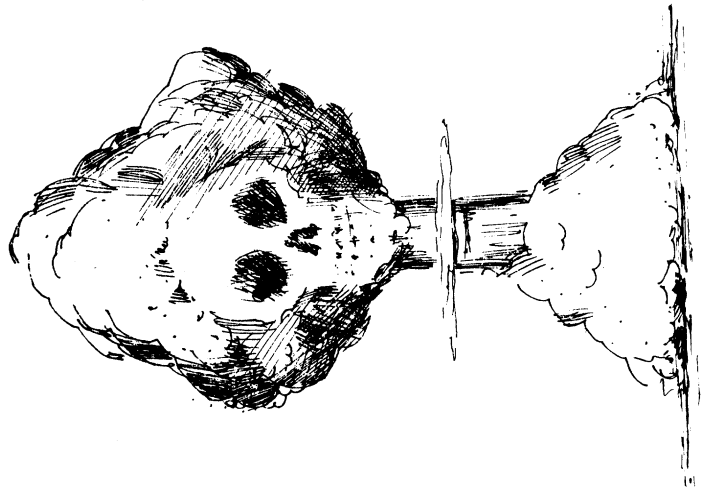
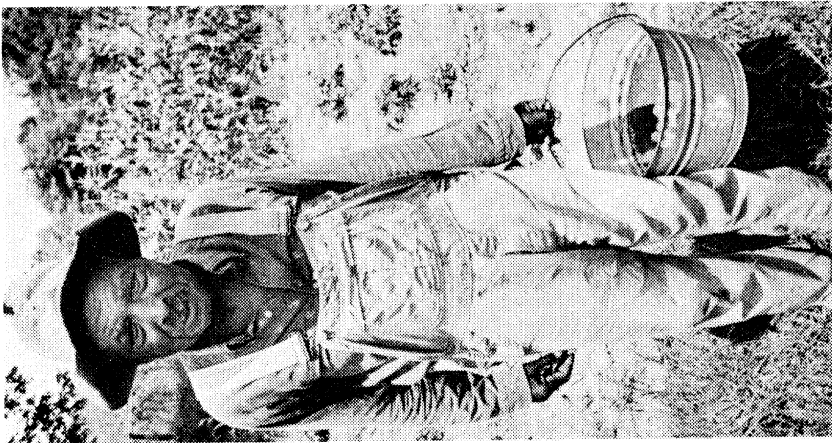
MAY BE RUN WITH THE STORY ON PAGE 9 OF THIS PACKET (#664).

BOTTOM RIGHT: Ford and Brezhnev.

MAY BE RUN WITH THE STORY ON PAGE 2 OF THIS PACKET (#664).



I AM ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS



There is bound to be much more
Watergate is a gnat compared to
the Bell System
S.O. Gravit

The final paragraph of a suicide note signed by T. O. Gravit of Dallas, reading: "There is bound to be much more. Watergate is a gnat compared to the Bell System." Mr. Gravit was a Southwestern Bell executive.

TOP RIGHT: Pres. Ford lynching dependent children and social security, following orders from big oil and military.

CREDIT: MOUNTAIN EAGLE/LNS

TOP LEFT: Southern woodcutters. (Sorry, no date, looks like the thirties.)

This was in SOUTHERN EXPOSURE, Fall, 1974.
SEE REVIEW ON PAGE 7.

CREDIT: SOUTHERN EXPOSURE/LNS

MIDDLE LEFT PHOTO: Farmer with bucket of plums, Mendenhall, Alabama.

SEE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN EXPOSURE ON PAGE 7.

CREDIT: Pat Goudvis/SOUTHERN EXPOSURE/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: Nuclear bomb explosion with skull. Can go with Ford-Brezhnev disarmament talk story ON PAGE 2.

CREDIT: BULLETIN POPULAIRE/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: Woman at Freedom Quilting Bee, Alberta, Alabama.

SEE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN EXPOSURE ON PAGE 7.

CREDIT: Pat Goudvis/SOUTHERN EXPOSURE/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT: Cartoon of women tuning in President's speech on TV.

CREDIT: Dave Hereth/PITTSBURGH FORUM/LNS

WAY BOTTOM LEFT: End of suicide note of Southwestern Bell Telephone executive, T.O. Gravitt.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 1.